

Chronicle



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ■ DISTRICT 7 ■ COMMISSIONER **Xavier L. Suarez**



District 7 Newsletter | Summer 2017

LOCAL TROLLEY SYSTEM



Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez has long called for the expansion of local transit routes via rubberized mass transit. This is because trolley systems have a proven track record as valid alternatives that draw thousands in weekly ridership; it is proven that the City of Miami, Coconut Grove, and Coral Gables trolley systems draw thousands in weekly riders. For this reason, Commissioner Suarez enthusiastically voted in favor of granting the City of South Miami permission to run a trolley city-circulator that will enhance the interconnectivity of South Miami residents and the major County Metrobus routes. Best of all, the bus services offered by the City of South Miami will have the ideal fare price: **FREE**.

Addressing Transportation Concerns



In The Miami New Times article regarding traffic congestion in Miami, Commissioner Xavier Suarez is credited as the sole “martyr” for traffic reform. It outlines the cost to our county to be \$3.6 Billion in the form of increased fuel costs, shipping industry slow-downs costs and higher commodity prices. That \$3.6 Billion price on our local economy is the price of the SMART plan, per recent estimates.

Housing Solutions

Commissioner Xavier Suarez suggests that county land slated for a David Beckham soccer stadium be used to provide affordable housing. During the Miami-Dade County’s Housing and Social Services committee meeting, Commissioner Suarez asked “How long are we going to negotiate for the use of that [county-owned land] before we decide maybe it ought to be made available for some affordable housing?”

Summer Youth Employment Program



In April of 2016, a new collaboration featuring the Children’s Trust, Miami-Dade Public Schools, and Miami-Dade County unveiled our largest ever investment in training our emerging workforce, the Summer Youth Internship Program. Resources from all three entities were combined to give our teenagers the opportunity to work for private sector companies, earn money and gain experience. We took a program that started in my district using our office budget that employed 25 students at various businesses and non-profits and grew the program into 2,000 jobs countywide. 98% of students finished the program, 100% of the students made money and got a bank account, and (most importantly) earned experience to put on their resume. These jobs were in professional capacities such as law firms and insurance agencies (not your average first job experience)! The SYIP is just one step in many to help fix our education system and move our workforce closer to being prepared to make it in the economy.

Commissioner Suarez said, “when I was a young man, one of my first jobs was as a painter’s assistant. Later on in life I became a mechanical engineer and lawyer but I started out pouring paint and cleaning paintbrushes. That job taught me nothing about the practice of law or a life of public service but it did teach me customer service, the importance of being on time, and the dignity of hard work. The world has changed a lot since then but the values that most of us learned as teenagers are still applicable today.” Students should see their school counselors to apply, visit online: www.ctemiami.net/2017-summer-youth-internship-program

Mom and Pop Small Business AWARDS

Neighbors and Neighbors Association (NANA) has completed the selection process for District 7 Mom and Pop businesses. Seventy-two businesses applied from the district and 36 businesses were selected for grant awards from \$2,350 to \$3,000. Three members of the community served on the selection committee. NANA will celebrate its 20th year anniversary next year, awarding over 16,000 grants of over \$22 million to small businesses county-wide. For more information, call 305-756-0605.



City of Miami approves \$160,000 grant for Envelopes of Safety after-school program

Crystal clear improvements in student attendance and academic improvement has proven Envelopes of Safety a winning tool for helping to protect and empower students at Tucker Elementary School in Coconut Grove. As an example Principal Annette DeGoti stated that students participating in the Thomas Amour Ballet Program baseline reading proficiency increased by 85% in the second grade with a midyear proficiency rate at 99% in the third grade. Overall 46 out of 53 students participating showed improvement. Attendance is up over 93% on overall. Commissioner Xavier Suarez launched the program with campaign funds almost a year ago. As a result of the program's proven success at Tucker, Envelopes of Safety will be replicated in schools throughout the county.

On May 11, 2017, the City of Miami Commission unanimously passed a pair of resolutions sponsored by Commissioner Francis Suarez awarding a total of \$160,000 in grants from his Anti-Poverty Initiative Fund to the Envelopes of Safety Program. Created in conjunction with the Miami-Dade County School Board (MDCSB) and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Xavier Suarez after a bullet penetrated a classroom at Frances Tucker Elementary in Coconut Grove in 2016, Envelopes of Safety presents an effort by various governmental bodies to offer after-school activities, such as music, visual arts, and martial arts, to public school children for keeping them safe at school and engaged in positive activities. The grant will be used to provide much needed after-school programming to sixteen (16) schools across the City. The programs are operated by The Motivational Edge and Elliott's Karate-Do. "Through our joint effort, we can enrich the lives of our community and our children," said Commissioner Francis Suarez.

Fight the bite!

DRAIN COVER

The Department of Solid Waste Management continues to provide information and outreach to the public on our year-round mosquito control efforts. Our goal is to engage the public so that residents are educated about and actively involved in the prevention of mosquito breeding. We also want to ensure that residents are taking the appropriate steps to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites and the diseases mosquitoes can potentially transmit. To this end, we have refreshed the Drain and Cover campaign that has been used in previous years and have added the tag line "Fight the Bite." I am excited to announce our "Mosquito 101" Mosquito Control Workshop. The workshops have been scheduled at public libraries or public meeting spaces throughout the County during June. To report a mosquito nuisance, call 311 or download our free 311 Direct Mobile App. For more information on how you can control the mosquito population at home, visit www.miamidade.gov/mosquito



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TREASURES of District 7



In celebration of Vizcaya's centennial year, the community is invited to discover an unknown part of the Vizcaya estate: Vizcaya Village. Located across the street from Vizcaya's main entrance, Vizcaya Village welcomes guests for an afternoon full of guided tours, urban farming, art, music, food trucks, and more. Registration is **FREE** and open to the public

District 7 Clean Up Saturday



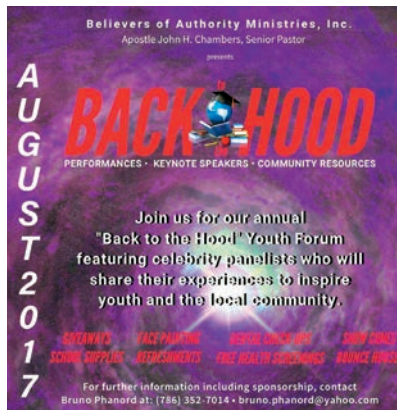
Resident, Mitchell Wildgoose and
Commission Aide, JC Garrido



Commissioner Suarez with District 7
Staff and residents

A "clean up bonanza" was launched by Commissioner Suarez, Saturday May 20th. The Commissioner, District 7 staff, residents and the Coconut Grove Collaborative got their hands dirty. All took part in cleaning an empty lot off Grand Avenue and Plaza Street. Whether its reporting illegal dumping, keeping bus benches neat or cleaning up empty lots, keeping our neighborhoods clean is always high on Commissioner Suarez' agenda. The Commissioner plans to continue the Saturday cleanup bonanza. Call the Grove district office at 305-694-3550 if you want to be a part of this solution.

Community Highlights



Believers of Authority Ministries, Inc. will host its seventh annual "Back to the Hood" Youth Forum August 4th, 2017 at Elizabeth Virrick Park in the heart of Coconut Grove, beginning at 11:00 am. Founded by Senior Pastor Apostle John H. Chambers III, the Back to the Hood Youth Forum was created to bring hope to youth old living in urban communities. It serves as an educational and motivational experience for attendees.

Prominent local and national panelists from various professions and backgrounds are featured speakers to let youth know that regardless of their environment or where they come from, they can grow up to be successful. Previous speakers include Actor & Director Mykelti Williamson and Astronaut Dr. Winston E. Scott. Free school supplies and refreshments are provided to all youth in attendance. Youth 6-18 years old can register at: **www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-back-to-the-hood-youth-forum-tickets-31264257235**.

For more information on how to be a sponsor, or for general inquiries, please contact Minister Bruno Phanord, Event Chairperson, at 786.352.7014, or via email at bruno.phanord@yahoo.com.



The Miami Goombay Village Party is a celebration of culture expression embracing the legacy of a Bahamian-rooted community in Coconut Grove. Vendors prepare to share their authentic Bahamian and American arts, craft and cuisine. This year's celebration will launch festivities that transforms Grand Avenue into a journey across the ocean, creating a perfect harmony of Caribbean culture of the Bahamas and the African American energy of Miami-Dade County. For more information: Call 305-576-6278 or visit online [splashthat.com/sites/view/miamigoombayvillageparty.splashthat.com](https://www.splashthat.com/sites/view/miamigoombayvillageparty.splashthat.com)



Consumer Protection Support

Have a complaint against a business? The Office of Consumer Protection enforces consumer protection laws under Miami-Dade County's Uniform Trade Standards and Deceptive Trade Practices Ordinance, as well as regulates and enforces laws relating to specific industries. Our Consumer Mediation Center investigates a variety of consumer complaints, mediates disputes between consumers and businesses, and educates consumers and businesses about their rights and responsibilities in order to maintain a vibrant local marketplace. An experienced and motivated staff of State-certified mediators and enforcement officers assist members of the public on a daily basis with a variety of inquiries and complaints. For more information, call:

**THE CONSUMER PROTECTION HOTLINE at 786-469-2333 or visit
www.miamidade.gov/business/consumer-protection.asp
601 NW 1st CT, Floor 18, Miami FL 33136 • Monday thru Friday,
from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm - no appointment necessary.**

BE PREPARED!

Hurricane season begins on June 1 - November 30. Take charge of your safety by making a hurricane plan ahead of time and stocking up on vital supplies. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecast 11 to 17 named storms, with five to nine hurricanes. Two to four hurricanes are expected to be “major” with sustained winds of at least 111 mph.



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